THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Based on Cabinet approval, Railways have already formed a corporation called RailTel Corporation of India Limited. This Corporation will lay optic fibre cable along the railway track progressively to establish a nationwide optic fibre cable based telecom network to fulfil railways' communications needs and also commercially exploit surplus telecom capacity. Presently, it is a 100% Railway owned Corporation under Ministry of Railways. Cabinet has been approached for approval of induction of Joint Venture partner(s) in Rail-Tel Corporation of India Limited. The Cabinet has referred the issue of induction of Joint Venture partner(s) in Rail-Tel Corporation of India Limited to Group of Ministers for recommendation and further approval of Cabinet.

Grading System in Schools

*512. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBSE is planning to replace the current evaluation system with a grading system to reduce post result trauma;

(b) if so, the deails thereof;

(c) whether views of the educationists and school authorities have been taken into account while formulating this proposal;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the new scheme comes into existence?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed presently at Class X level.

(b) The CBSE's current evaluation system in declaration of results in Class X indicates both grades and marks. The proposed system envisages issue of subject-wise grades without reference to marks.

(c) and (d) Discussions and consultations have been held by the CBSE with various schools, teaching community, educationists, State

Board of Education etc. regarding the proposal. A Sub Committee has been set up to suggest a module which is able to resolve the concerns and apprehensions expressed in different quarters.

(e) No time frame has been fixed to implement the proposal.

Direct Train from Dehradun to Chennai and Hyderabad

*513. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for a direct train from Dehradun to Chennai and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, what decision has been taken thereon; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider the feasibility of running a direct train or adding coaches to Chennai and Hyderabad, from Dehradun?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Some representations have been received for introduction of a direct train from Dehradun to Chennai and Hyderabad. The demands have been examined but not found for implementation due to operational and resource constraints.

Purchase of Raw Coconuts in Karnataka

*514. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for purchase of raw coconuts in Karnataka, on the lines of the scheme in operation in Kerala, to check declining prices of coconuts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The issue of purchase of raw coconut has been examined by the Government and it has not been found feasible to extend price support directly to the coconut cultivators. The